

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

CENTENNIAL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

ABERFOYL CHURCH,

BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA,

SEPTEMBER 25TH, 26TH, & 27TH, 1885.

—◆◆◆—  
OFFICERS:

A. J. SLAUGHTER, ..... MODERATOR, ..... Union Springs, Ala.  
F. E. TOMPKINS, ..... CLERK, ..... Mt. Carmel, Ala.  
J. F. LASSITER, ..... TREASURER, ..... Union Springs, Ala.



MONTGOMERY, ALA.:  
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.  
1885.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS.

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J. E. CHAMBLISS, D. D.,	Union Springs, Ala.
J. O. HIXON,	Union Springs, "
A. F. DIX,	Union Springs, "
M. N. ELEY,	Union Springs, "
WM. PRITCHETT,	Aberfoil, "
CHAS. CRAWLEY,	Aberfoil, "
J. P. NALL,	Siloam, "
B. M. BEAN,	Liberty, "

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

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1. Introductory Sermon preached.
2. Intermission, one hour for dinner.
3. The Moderator called the Association to order.
4. Letters read.
5. Organization.
6. Rules of Decorum read.
7. Ministers who are not Messengers invited to seats.
8. Admission of new churches.
9. Correspondence received and returned.
10. Appoint committees on :
  - (a.) Preaching
  - (b.) Letters and documents.
  - (c.) Missions.
  - (d.) Bible Schools.
  - (e.) Education.
  - (f.) Temperance.
  - (g.) Periodicals.
  - (h.) Deceased Ministers.
  - (i.) Aged and Infirm Ministers and Families of Dec'd Ministers.
  - (j.) Finance.
  - (k.) Special.
11. Miscellaneous Business.
12. Adjourn.
13. Reassemble.
14. Roll Call.
15. Previous Minutes read.
16. Reports of Committees in the above order.
17. The Committee on Preaching to appoint some one to preach the Introductory Sermon next session.
18. Miscellaneous Business.
19. Treasurer's Report.
20. Adjourn.

## MINUTES

The Centennial Association, in tenth annual session, convened with Aberfoil Church, on Friday, September 25th, 1885, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Elder J. H. Wright, who was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, being absent, Dr. J. E. Chambliss was requested to fill his place. Text—1 Cor. 9.23. Theme—The Faithful Ministry of the Apostle Paul.

### FRIDAY, 2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, A. J. Slaughter.

After singing, and prayer by Wm. O'Neil, the letters from churches were presented, and were read by C. P. West and F. O. Bickley, and names of delegates enrolled as follows :

Aberfoil—Elders Wm. Pritchett and Chas. Crawley; F. O. Bickley and W. H. Egerton.

Indian Creek—E. M. Thomas, M. W. Justice and M. B. Phillips.

Liberty—Henry Barnett, T. M. Hough and H. G. McLaney.

Macedonia—J. C. Rotton and A. C. May.

Mt. Zion—A. Townsend, A. Harden and F. M. Grider.

Mt. Carmel—W. W. Evans, T. M. Gholston and F. E. Tompkins.

Perote—M. Ivey and J. R. McDowell.

Sardis—F. M. Reese and J. L. Childs.

Union Springs—Elders J. E. Chambliss, M. N. Eley, J. O. Hixon; A. F. Dix, A. J. Slaughter, George Williams, C. P. West, J. H. Eley, J. F. Lassiter and W. M. Thornton.

On motion of Elder M. N. Eley, the former officers were re-elected by acclamation, viz: A. J. Slaughter, Moderator; F. E. Tompkins, Clerk, and J. F. Lassiter, Treasurer.

F. E. Tompkins not being present, George Williams was requested to act for him.

On call for petitionary letters, Siloam Church, from Salem Association, presented a letter, which was received and names of delegates enrolled as follows: S. J. Townsend, W. A. Battle and R. J. Sims, jr.

Correspondents received as follows:

Eufaula Association—J. R. and A. Cinquefield and Joe Vann.

Salem Association—Elder E. N. Brooks.

Alabama Association—Wm. O'Neil.

Special committees appointed as follows:

On Nominations—J. L. Childs, T. M. Hough and M. B. Phillips.

On Finance—C. P. West, J. R. McDowell and A. C. May.  
 On Documents—F. M. Grider, J. C. Rotton and F. M. Reese.  
 On Auditing—F. O. Bickley, E. M. Thomas and A. Harden.  
 On Preaching—M. Ivey, and delegates of Aberfoil Church.  
 Committee on Home Missions reported, and report adopted.

#### REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

In submitting the tenth annual report on Home Missions to your body, your committee beg leave to take a retrospective view.

Forty years ago, some twenty-five or thirty of our *now* strongest and most efficient churches, and many of our most zealous and effective Associations were but so many missionary stations and fields of Missionary labor. The Baptists in the bounds of the Home Mission then numbered two hundred thousand. Its work was then carried on by God-loving and God-fearing men, who had not the facilities for traveling that we now have, but who traveled as best they could, from house to house and from church to church. God blessed their labors to the salvation of souls, and from the labors of those self-denying, God-serving men, sprang into existence whole associations of God-serving churches, which to-day are emitting light into destitute places and distant lands.

While we rejoice at what has been done, yet we regret that it has been small, when compared with the means we have possessed and the many opportunities we have had for enlarging and carrying on the blessed work.

Since the Home Mission sprang into existence, the Baptists have increased four-fold in their bounds, and had every Baptist possessed the spirit of those God-fearing men who first went out into the Home Mission fields, we might now have numbered ten times four-fold.

Notwithstanding the many difficulties that have presented themselves, the field is enlarging and calls for an increased number of laborers, and an enlarged liberality from the churches.

The Home Mission Board is doing an extensive work in Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, Western North Carolina and among the Indians. Our space will not allow us to go into full details.

Your committee are unwilling to close this report without calling your attention to the destitution of the colored race. These people are among us and present a wide field for usefulness. That they should be aided to the extent of our ability, we think no Christian will deny; that they are helpless themselves, to the best of their ability, is evident. They have built up a school in Selma for the improvement of their ministers, and the number of church houses they have built, prove that they are doing all they are able to do. Now they need a suitable minister to hold institutes for the instruction of their ministers, deacons and Sabbath school teachers.

The Home Mission Board propose to pay one half of the support of a man to do this work in Alabama, and ask that the brethren promptly raise the other half.

Your committee recommend that the brethren of this Association, while contributing to other fields, contribute liberally to the last mentioned work.

Respectfully submitted,

M. N. ELEY, Chairman.

Elder B. M. Bean, Chairman of Committee on State Missions, being absent, C. P. West was appointed in his stead, and report made special order for 9½ o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

Adjourned.

## SATURDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

After singing a hymn, and prayer by Elder J. E. Chambliss, the Association resumed business.

The Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers and Widows and Orphans of Deceased Ministers, reported, and report adopted.

## REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS, ETC.

Your committee, after careful investigation, find that there are no aged and infirm ministers nor widows and orphans of deceased ministers within the bounds of this Association, who need the special care of this body at present.

Respectfully submitted.

C. CRAWLEY, Chairman.

Committee on State Missions reported, and report adopted.

## REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report:

That while we have been unable to acquire, owing to the short time allotted us for the preparation of this report, such information as enables us to make a detailed statement of all the topics of interest proper to be comprehended by it, we are gratified to be able to state, as a statistical fact, that of the 4,387 accessions to the churches, by baptism, within the last ten years, through the instrumentality of the State Mission Board, 919 were added last year; of the 1,591 by letter, 377 were added last year; of the 600 by restoration, 106 were added last year, which shows an increase, last year, of total accessions of 742 over and above an average within the ten years, or 1,402 last year against 660 (one-tenth of the whole.) We are gratified, too, to be able to state, as a further statistical fact, that 81 men were employed last year, against 70 the preceding year; 927 prayer meetings were conducted last year, against 624 the preceding year; 11 ladies' missionary societies were organized last year, against 8 the preceding year; 6 meeting houses furnished last year, against 4 the preceding year; 12 meeting houses begun, against 5 the preceding year. Now, when we consider these facts, which show such favorable results, can we fail to furnish the State Board with the \$12,000 necessary to meet the demands upon them next year? And are not the results, which these facts show, proof of the approbation of our Heavenly Father? Let us trust that they are, and let us not tire in trying to be worthy of His bountiful mercy and love.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. P. WEST, Chairman.

Committee on Education reported, and report adopted.

## REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Education must ever bear an important relation to revealed religion. It is essential to the understanding of revelation on the part both of the preacher and the hearer. It required thousands of years of schooling in order to prepare the inhabitants of the earth, not only for the thought and spirit of God's word, but also for the vehicle of language in which it is borne. The neglect, by a single generation, of education in language and history, would rob the world of all that rich inheritance in religion and civilization which is the distinguishing treasure of our age.

No degree of mental development or enlightenment can make a man religious; on the other hand, no man can be religious without the knowledge of God by Jesus Christ, and the more of this knowledge he has,

the more deeply religious he may become. The ignorance of regenerated people is the great bar to their sanctification. As long as it prevails, and in proportion to its prevalence, the prayer of the Saviour, "Sanctify them through thy touch; thy word is truth," cannot be answered; for truth can be efficacious only through the knowledge of it.

We can make good our claim for private judgment, in the interpretation of scripture, only on the ground of an *enlightened* judgment, and it is useless to say, "Take the Bible for your guide, and do what it says," as long as the wide-spread ignorance of the people renders it a sealed book. The attempt to meet the difficulty by means of a highly educated ministry will fail. Send out many more of such as you are able to make, and the poor country church, the hope of the world, will not get them. They will be sought and obtained in more wealthy and intelligent fields. The difficulty can be met in only one way, and that is to educate the masses. From them will be gathered intelligent churches, and they will place over themselves an educated ministry; for as in trade, the demand will create the supply. Looking, therefore, to the increase of the efficiency of the churches of Christ, your committee would recommend the encouragement of all institutions of learning; but especially those that secure the elevation of the masses of the people.

Respectfully submitted,

A. F. DIX,  
F. O. BICKLEY,  
D. H. BARNETT.  
Committee.

Adjourned for preaching by Elder E. M. Brooks. Text--Rom. 1:16.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Singing, and prayer by Elder M. N. Eley.

Committee on Foreign Missions reported, and report adopted.

#### REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Foreign Missions offer the following as a substitute for a formal report on that subject:

Missionary work, wherever performed in the wide world, is a part of the great work which the Divine Master has enjoined upon all Christians; so that it is not wrong, but emphatically right to send the Gospel to the very ends of the earth.

It is a fact which ought to give great comfort and encouragement to the hearts of Christians; that, according to the amount of money expended and labor performed, the result in the conversion of souls to Christ is greater in heathen lands than anywhere else. This result certainly shows the divine approval of Christian labor in all parts of the earth.

While we sacrifice and labor, and pray for the success of State and Home Missions, let us not be remiss in our duty to the agencies of Foreign Missionary plans.

Respectfully submitted,

J. O. HIXON, Chairman.

Committee on Periodicals reported, and report adopted.

#### REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

There is in our denominational work evidently a place and a use for periodicals. The minutes of our Association and conventions and the reports of secretaries in the various departments of our work, are made periodically and are of great value for reference and information. These should be written with care and published in a form, and adopted for preser-

vation. The Alabama Baptist, which gives an account of our State work, should be read by all the Baptists in our State. The Baptist, edited by J. R. Graves, should be read by all Baptists. The Foreign Mission Journal gives an account of our Foreign Mission work. Kind Words, we think, is very good for the young folks, and for Sunday schools, not excelled. We recommend it to all Sunday schools. We also recommend The Heathen Helper.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. PRITCHETT, Chairman.

Committee on Temperance reported, and report adopted.

#### REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

At no time since the inauguration of the temperance work, one hundred years ago, has the question of temperance occupied so much of public attention. Its voice has been heard in the halls of Congress, in the State Legislatures, and in political Conventions.

No where has its pleadings been more successful than before the Legislatures of the different States. It has been so successful before these, that we now have three States, Maine; Kansas and Iowa, with prohibitory laws in successful operation; and most, if not all others, with partial prohibition. Georgia, with a total of 135 counties, has prohibition for over 100. Our beloved Alabama has 13 counties with total prohibition, and a number of others with partial prohibition.

The success of the temperance cause we regard as a certainty. The people are aroused upon the subject as never before, and will be satisfied with nothing short of total prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. Our Conventions, the Presbyterian Synods and Methodist Conferences have all spoken in language that means nothing less than this. Besides these religious bodies, there are temperance societies, prominent among which are the I. O. G. T., W. C. T. U., and the State Temperance Alliance, which are determined to wage one continuous warfare until this glorious result is accomplished.

Then, why should not the people thus labor against an evil that is so great that each year it consumes \$940,000,000 of hard earned money, and snatches from the embrace of loved ones 60,000 of our citizens and casts them into drunkard's graves to meet a drunkard's doom. And hence, "we see the tears of the widow and orphan, and hear the low sad wail of agony that goes up from broken hearts, and see bright hopes and prospects blasted, the innocence of youth grown old with the deformity of ignorance and want, beauty clothed in rags and shame, and manhood shorn of its glory."

But while we are at work the enemy is not idle. "He is crafty and powerful, and to resist such a foe successfully will require our mightiest efforts." Then let us go forth in the strength of our God, and never cease our efforts until "everything that can intoxicate shall be driven from our midst, and the clouds that have so long darkened our skies be scattered by the golden beams of truth and temperance."

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. SLAUGHTER, Ch'n.

Adjourned.

SUNDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

After singing a hymn, and prayer by Elder A. F. Dix, the Association resumed business.

The Committee on Sunday Schools reported, and discussion of report made special order for 2 o'clock P. M. to-day.

On motion, a committee of five was appointed to revise the Constitution of the Association. Committee: M. N. Eley, J. E. Chambliss, J. O. Hixon, F. O. Bickley, W. A. Martin and A. F. Dix. Committee to report at next session of the body.

Eleven o'clock, the hour for preaching, the Association adjourned.

Elder J. E. Chambliss preached. Text—I Cor. 9:23.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Association resumed business.

Committee on Nominations reported, and the report was adopted:

#### REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

The Committee on Nominations recommend that the next session of this body be held with Mt. Carmel Church, commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1886; that Elder A. F. Dix preach the Introductory Sermon—alternate, B. M. Bean.

We recommend as delegates to the State Convention, Elders J. E. Chambliss, B. M. Bean, J. O. Hixon, A. F. Dix, M. N. Eley, Wm. Pritchett and Chas. Crawley, and Brethren A. J. Slaughter, S. J. Townsend, William M. Thornton and T. M. Gholston.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. CRAWLEY,  
W. A. BATTLE,  
WM. THORNTON,  
Committee.

The Committee on Documents reported, and the report was adopted:

#### REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee on Documents submitted the following. We find from the reading of the letters from the Churches and inquiry, that two Churches in our bounds have no pastors; we also find that a number of the Churches report no Sabbath School or prayer meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. GRIDER,  
J. C. ROLTON,  
F. M. REESE,  
Committee.

On motion, the Auditing Committee, Finance Committee and Treasurer were requested to hand in their reports to the Clerk.

The Moderator appointed the following standing committees, viz:

On Foreign Missions—A. F. Dix, J. L. Childs and A. Harden.

On Home Missions—Wm. Pritchett, F. M. Grider and T. M. Hough.

On State Missions—J. E. Chambliss, H. Barnett and M. W. Justice.

On Aged and Infirm Ministers and Widows and Orphans of Deceased Ministers—M. N. Eley, A. Harden and J. C. Rolton.

On Sunday Schools—S. J. Townsend, A. C. May and M. B. Phillips.

On Temperance—H. G. McLaney, J. P. McDowell and F. O. Bickley.

On Periodicals—T. M. Gholston, F. M. Reese and W. A. Battle.

On Education—C. P. West, M. Ivey and A. Townsend.

On motion, former Executive Committee re-elected by acclamation, and



Elder J. E. Chambliss instead of Elder J. H. Wright, who had left the Association.

On motion, the Association approved the action of the Executive Committee in the appointment of Elder Wm. Pritchett a colporteur for the Association; and also instructed the Executive Committee to encourage Missionary Colportage and other work within the bounds of the Association.

On motion, a collection for Elder E. M. Brooks was made, and \$10.20 was collected.

Committee on Sunday Schools reported, and the report was adopted:

#### REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

If your committee could report a good Sunday School in each Church of our Association, and that the officers and teachers were the fathers and mothers of the children, they would feel assured that the spirit of the Lord was with our people to bless and to save.

Why is it not so? The reasons may be summed up into these words: *Lack of love for Christ.* This is manifested in indifference to the study of the teachings of Jesus, for if we love him as we should we would delight in his every word, and desire that *all* should know and love him. In practical unbelief in his word, for if every regenerate heart *really felt* that there was "none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved," they would surely seize every opportunity to teach the Gospel of our Redeemer.

What can be done? It is often said of a man, "to know him was to love him." How infinitely more is this true of the character and work of Christ, he who is "altogether lovely," and in whom the Father was "well pleased!" Hence the study—careful and prayerful—of the word will fill our hearts with love for the Savior, so that we will desire that others should know and love him also; then we will organize Sunday Schools.

To accomplish the end in view, we must use such *means* as will insure success. We must have method in our work. We must be prompt and regular in attendance. We must have the older Church members for officers and teachers, and they must study and pray. We must have good S. S. literature and S. S. helps, to create and keep up interest in the school.

We must have our "babes in Christ" brought up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," and in no better way can be administered, both the "milk" and the "strong meat" of the word, than by the study of the Scriptures in Bible Classes.

Brethren, can we not appreciate the importance of this work, and take hold of it as the most efficacious means of preaching the gospel? Let us unite in the prayer that we may be able to so put our hearts into it, that every Church within the bounds of our Association may have a good Sunday School during the year to come. God's blessing will surely attend our consecration to his service.

Respectfully submitted.

On motion, a committee was appointed to draft resolutions in regard to the death of Bro. T. M. Johns. Committee: A. F. Dix, Wm. Pritchett, M. Ivey and A. J. Slaughter.

Correspondents returned as follows:

To Eufaula Association—J. O. Hixon, Chas. Crawley, M. Ivey, Wm. M. Thornton, J. C. Rotton and F. E. Boykin.

To Salem Association—J. O. Hixon, Chas. Crawley, Wm. Pritchett, W. W. Evans, J. C. Rotton and S. J. Townsend.

To Tuskegee Association—F. E. Boykin.

Elder J. E. Chambliss offered the following, which was adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That we heartily endorse the action of the Alabama Baptist Convention at its late session in Tuskegee, in respect to "Woman's Work," looking to the more general enlisting of Baptist women in the benevolent enterprises of our denomination. We congratulate ourselves and the "Central Committee" of Montgomery on the selection of sister A. F. Dix as Corresponding Secretary for the Centennial Association.

We commend this work to our sisters in the Churches of the Association, and wish that they may all co-operate with Sister Dix in organizing Mission Societies in their Churches.

On motion, the following was offered:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this body be extended to this Church and community for their hospitality, and to the Methodist Brethren for the tender of their house of worship.

After reading and correcting the minutes, the parting hand was extended and the body adjourned to meet with Mt. Carmel Church on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1886, at 11 o'clock A. M.

A. J. SLAUGHTER, Moderator.

F. E. TOMPKINS, Clerk.

#### REPORT ON FINANCE.

The Committee on Finance report as follows:

Sardis .....	Missions, cash .....	\$ 15 50	
" .....	" voucher .....		\$ 2 00
" .....	Minutes, cash .....	50	
Siloam .....	State Missions, cash .....	10 00	
" .....	Minutes, cash .....	2 50	
Liberty .....	Missions, cash .....	23 20	
" .....	Minutes, cash .....	2 50	
Macedonia .....	State Missions, voucher claimed but not exhibited .....		1 75
" .....	Home Missions, cash .....	4 00	
" .....	Minutes, cash .....	1 50	
Perote .....	State Missions, reported p'd, no voucher .....		8 25
" .....	" " cash .....	1 75	
" .....	Minutes, cash .....	1 50	
Mt. Zion .....	Missions, cash .....	5 00	
" .....	Minutes, cash .....	1 00	
Aberfoil .....	Missions, reported paid, no voucher .....		1 00
" .....	Minutes, cash .....	1 50	
Mt. Carmel .....	State Missions, due-bill .....		50 00
" .....	Minutes, cash .....	1 75	
Union Springs .....	Missions, reported paid, no voucher .....		77 63
" .....	" cash .....	53 00	
Indian Creek .....	Missions .....	5 00	
Sept. 29th, 1885.		\$130 20	\$140 63

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. P. WEST, Ch'n.

## REPORT ON DEATH OF T. M. JOHNS.

Your committee to whom was referred the presentation of suitable expressions concerning the death of Bro. Thomas M. Johns, would respectfully report :

*WHEREAS*, the hand of sudden providential bereavement has been laid upon one of our Churches, and one of its families has been brought to extreme sorrow; therefore,

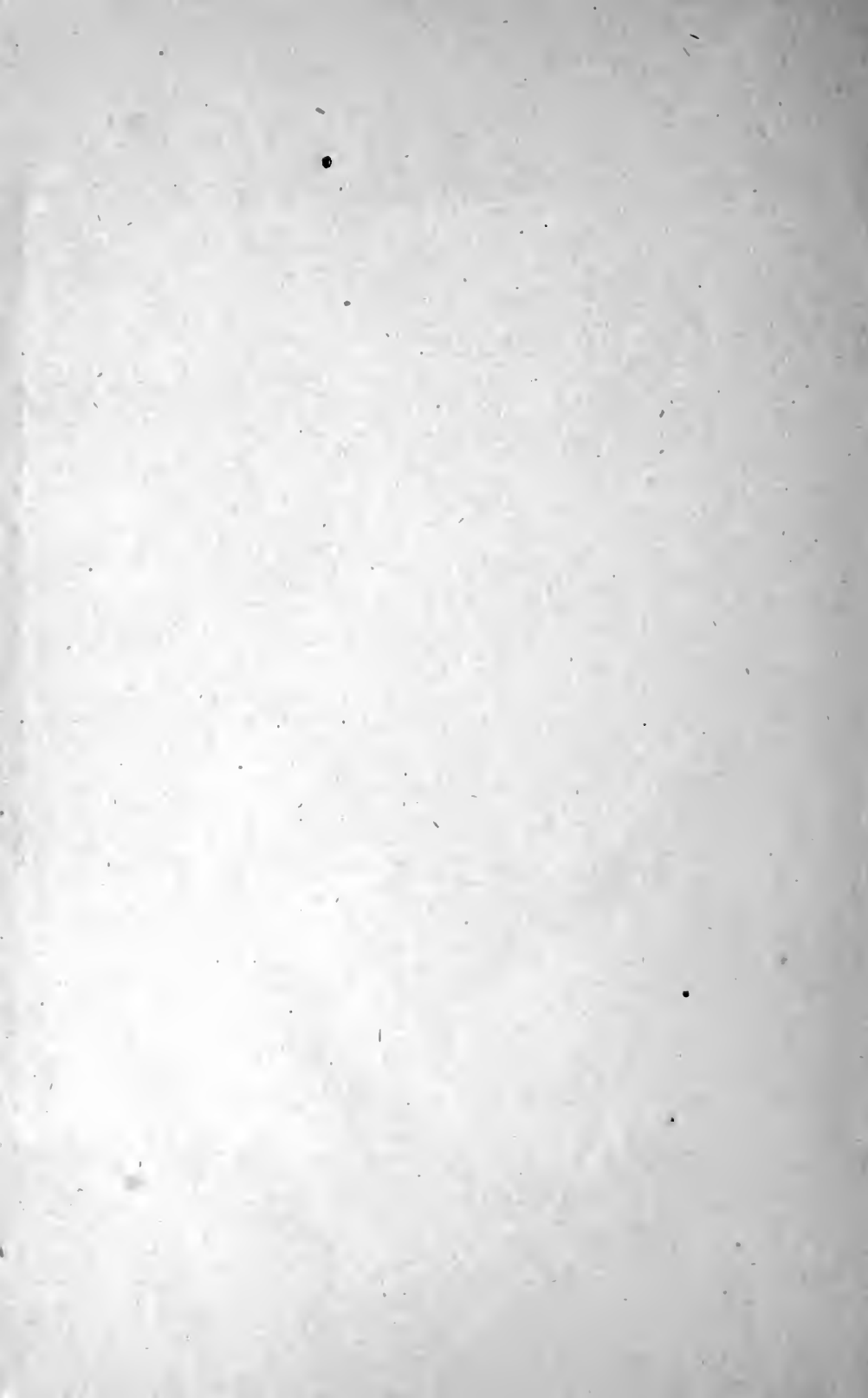
*Resolved*, That in the death of our beloved brother, Thomas M. Johns, of the Fairview Church, we recognize a painful loss, both to this Association and to his own Church, community and family, none of whom can afford to part with brother and friend of such integrity, zeal and liberality.

*Resolved*, That while we grieve over our own loss, and sympathize with those brethren and kindred more immediately bereaved, we will remember how "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

*Resolved*, That in view of sudden death, and certain rest, perhaps near at hand, we will work while the day lasts, that we also may rest from our labors.

Respectfully submitted,

A. F. DIX,  
WM. PRITCHETT,  
M. IVEY,  
A. J. SLAUGHTER,  
Committee.



## STATISTICAL TABLE

[illegible]





# THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

IS THE ORGAN OF THE

## BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

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**T**HERE is no more important interest fostered by the denomination than this paper. It ought to be read in every Baptist family in Alabama. This is not asking too much.

Having removed to Montgomery, the capital of the State, the publishers hope to deserve more than ever the support of the denomination.

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*SUBSCRIPTION—\$2.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.*

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 We will pay a commission to agents soliciting subscriptions in any Church or Association.

**John G. Harris**

—AND—

**Wm. A. Davis,**

} Editors and Proprietors.

SAMUEL HENDERSON, D. D., Associate Editor.

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